

Public Information Meeting

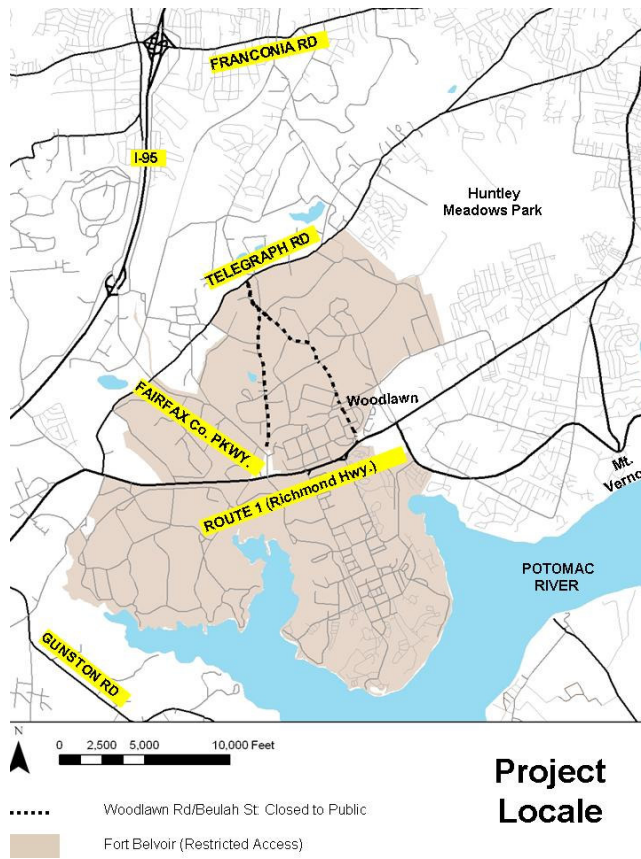
February 17, 2005

Mt. Vernon High School

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

MEETING PURPOSE

- Allow the public, in an open forum, to review alternative ways for Fort Belvoir to replace access previously provided by Beulah Street and Woodlawn Road prior to 9/11/01.
- Satisfy requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act for public scoping of this project.
- Allow an exchange of information among the public, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) representatives, and key project agency stakeholders.
- Review and expand upon the findings of a *Preliminary Feasibility Study* conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, completed in November 2003.
- Update the project mailing list, consider comments, and determine if the proposed scope of study should be modified.



WELCOME & Please share your comments !

- ✓ **Project Representatives are available tonight**
- ✓ **Fill out the “Comment Sheet”**
- ✓ **Add your name to the project’s Mailing List**

REMEMBER: We’ve just started !

The information presented at this meeting is “existing” available data. We are building upon the data gathered from the *Preliminary Feasibility Study*, conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, November 2003.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Following the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon in 2001, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) closed public access to military installations. Fort Belvoir is situated between Telegraph Road and U.S. Route 1, as well as south of U.S. Route 1 in southeastern Fairfax County.

Within its limits, Fort Belvoir closed both Woodlawn Road (VA Route 618) and Beulah Street (VA Route 613) to the general public.

In 2002, through cooperation among Fort Belvoir, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Fairfax County and elected officials, the gate at Telegraph Road and Beulah Street was re-opened to private vehicles displaying current DoD decals. While re-opening this specific gate eliminated circuitous routing of authorized private automobiles destined for the Fort facilities, that action does not offer accessibility or through access to the general public.

The initial steps to reestablish the closed highway connection were undertaken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), Baltimore District, which conducted a Preliminary Feasibility Study (Phase I) of the Richmond Highway and Telegraph Road Connector, Fairfax County, VA that was completed in November 2003.

The Feasibility Study not only identified and generally evaluated a number of roadway corridors to replace the access formerly provided by Woodlawn Road and Beulah Street, but also involved a collaborative effort among the many interested agencies and the public. It involved numerous agency stakeholder meetings, opportunities for review by the public at two public meetings, and close coordination with Fort Belvoir.

While the Feasibility Study specifically did not recommend any alternatives due to its preliminary nature, subsequently the Army identified a corridor called Alternative C, as its preferred alternative.

The present Richmond Highway-Telegraph Road Connector Environmental Study will evaluate several alternatives to replacing the closed roads, including the previously mentioned Alternative C, and possible variations at termini connections.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose for the project, in the simplest terms, is to replace the once-public access provided by VA Route 618 (Woodlawn Road) and VA Route 613 (Beulah Street) between Richmond Highway and Telegraph Road.

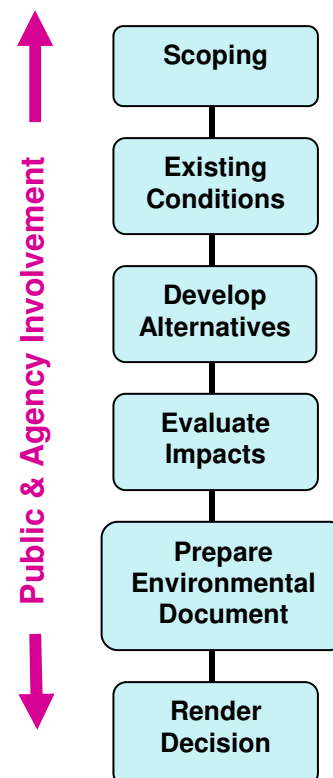
Federal Highway Administration, Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division, is the lead Federal agency, working with DoD. VDOT and Fairfax County are assisting in the study and design development.

PROJECT NEED

Traffic? In Fairfax County? Alternative routes and alternative means for providing transportation links and services will improve connectivity in this congested area of the county. This study will identify the anticipated vehicle trips with and without the proposed facility.

The project would also allow for land transfers of existing easements between the Fort and VDOT.

STUDY PROCESS



SCHEDULE

Preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) is currently planned, with a study effort of 12 months to the Decision Document. This would mean public availability of the EA document in Late Summer 2005.

At least one more Public Information Meeting would occur when the Environmental Document is available.

After that meeting, FHWA will prepare a Decision Document. If that document recommends a build alternative, then it is expected that right-of-way acquisition and design could take approximately two years. Construction could take another two years. In summary, absent unforeseen circumstances, the facility could be open in late 2009.

KNOWN AREAS OF CONCERN

- ✓ Security “Buffers” to protect installations on the Fort
- ✓ Wildlife Management Corridor
- ✓ Wetlands
- ✓ Parkland and Recreation areas
- ✓ Neighborhoods
- ✓ Woodlawn Plantation and Historic District
- ✓ Local traffic impacts
- ✓ Effects on Fort operations, plans and internal access
- ✓ More....

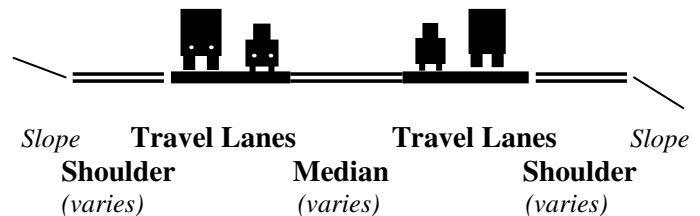
Other alternatives, such as improved bus service or transportation system management options will be considered.

Other corridors or connections will be considered.

TYPE OF FACILITY (Typical Section)

- Arterial?
- Urban?
- Parkway?

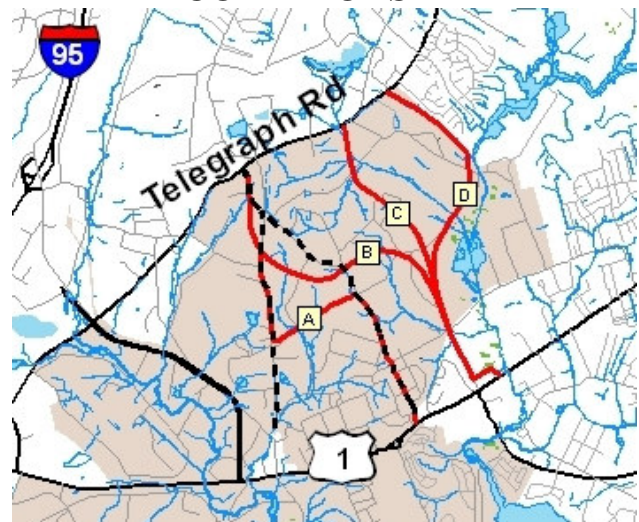
← RIGHT-OF-WAY WIDTH TO VARY →



Variables include:

- Width and type of median
None? Grassy? Turn lanes? Barrier?
- Width and use of shoulder
Curb and gutter? Emergency recovery area?
- Sidewalk? Bikeway/trail?
- Mitigation needs

PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVE CORRIDORS



Corridors A, B, C, and D are from the Preliminary Feasibility Study.

NOTES

AGENCY STAKEHOLDERS

- Federal Highway Administration
- US Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, Directorate of Public Works (DPW)
- U.S. Army Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, Defense Access Road Program Manager
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Humphreys Engineering Center Support Activity
- Fairfax County Department of Transportation
- Virginia Department of Transportation

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VISIT THE WEBSITE

www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/active_projects.htm